



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEE SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGE

TUCSON, ARIZONA –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that Cesar Ricardo Amaya, (DOB 3/16/81), of Nogales, Arizona was sentenced by United States District Court Judge David Bury to three (3) years probation. As a condition of probation, the Court imposed (6) months of home confinement and 200 hours of community service.

Amaya acted as a lookout for Ricardo Romero Jr., (DOB 9/5/78) of Rio Rico, Arizona when Romero transported approximately one hundred and fifty pounds of marijuana from one location in Rio Rico to another location in Rio Rico for persons he believed were narcotic traffickers. Amaya was paid \$1,000.00 for acting as a lookout.

Amaya had been a fire fighter for the United States Forest Service, Nogales Fire Station since 2002. Romero had also been employed as a fire fighter for the United States Forest Service, Nogales Fire Station. Romero was sentenced on January 26, 2004 to fifteen (15) months in prison.

The investigation that led to the arrest was conducted by a joint investigation between the Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Forest Service

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and the Department of Agriculture - Office of the Inspector General. The Southern Corruption Task Force is comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Internal Affairs, and the Tucson Police Department.

The prosecution was handled by James T. Lacey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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